

Graeco-Roman Myth and Religion

21:510:257:01

T, Th (4-5:20pm)

Professor: Dr. Aaron Beck-Schachter

Email: (TBD) aaronjbs@rutgers.edu

Office: Online

Office Hours: TBC

Course Website: Canvas

Description: This class will emphasize their social, literary and religious contexts of the myths of Classical Antiquity. We will investigate how the myths were received, elaborated and interpreted by ancient poets, thinkers and audiences. Our aim will be to understand myths not just as free-floating fanciful stories—though the sheer narrative pleasure of mythological tales will not be ignored—but as complex, challenging accounts of human existence that were deeply and meaningfully woven into the very texture of ancient social life.

Learning objectives:

- To understand the basic narrative of Graeco-Roman Myth and the sources upon which this narrative is based.
- To develop the technique of close reading.
- To apply principles and concepts critically across disciplines and produce and support original thoughts and arguments.
- "To develop skills in the close reading and analysis of primary sources"

Required Texts:

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1. *The Odyssey* – Homer, Translated by Emily Wilson; **ISBN-10: 0393356256 (Available in the bookstore)**
2. *The Iliad* – Translated by Robert Fagles **ISBN-10: 9780140275360 (Available in the bookstore)**
3. All required course materials are provided on Canvas in the Modules section.

Grading:

Weekly Quizzes (located in units 1-15): 150 points, 30%

Two Essays: (Located in units 7, 14): 350 points, 75%.

Total: 500 points.

Grading Scale:

90 - 100	A
87 - 89	B+
80 - 86	B
77 - 79	C+
70 - 76	C
60 - 69	D
59 or less	F

Honor Code: You must include the following Rutgers Honor Code Pledge on all examinations and major course assignments submitted for grading: "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment). (Name) (Signature – typing your name is fine) (Date)." I will remind you of this.

Absence Policy: Recognized grounds for absence are illness requiring medical attention, curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the faculty, personal obligations claimed by the student and recognized as valid, recognized religious holidays, and severe inclement weather causing dangerous traveling conditions.

Any student who misses eight (8) or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw to avoid getting an F.

Schedule:

Unit 1: What is Greek Myth? Prometheus and Pandora.

1/18/22, 1/20/22

Reading: Selections week 2, Powell 2004 – *Hesiod*

Advanced reading: Vernant 1990 – *Prometheus in Hesiod*.

Unit 2: The Underworld and the Sky: Olympians 1

1/25/21, 1/27/21

Reading: Primary Selections Week 3, Powell 2004 – *Demeter*

Advanced reading: Calame 2007 – *Greek Myth and Greek Religion*

Unit 3: The Politics of Olympus: Olympians 2

2/1/22, 2/3/22

Reading: Primary Selections Week 4, Graf 2009 – *Apollo*

Advanced reading: Lonsdale 1994 – *Homeric Hymn to Apollo*

Unit 4: Generations of Gods: Olympians 3

2/8/22, 2/10/22

Reading: Primary Selections Week 5; Morford and Lenardon 2013 – *Dionysus*.

Advanced Reading: Henrichs 1984 – *The Modern View of Dionysus*

Unit 5: Pre Iliadic Events 1: Io, Danaus, Europa, Cadmus

2/15/22, 2/17/22

Reading: Primary Selections Week 6

Advanced reading: Rutherford 2011 – *Mythology of the Black Land*

Unit 6: The Greek Hero: What makes a Hero?

2/22/22, 2/24/22

Reading: Primary Selections Week 7, Stafford 2012 – *Herakles*

Advanced Reading: Shapiro 1983 – *The Death and Apotheosis of Herakles*

Unit 7: Pre Iliadic Events 2: the Argonauts and Oedipus

3/1/22, 3/3/22

Reading: Primary Selections Week 8; Morford and Lenardon – Argonauts and Medea

Advanced reading: Dodds 1966 – *On Misunderstanding Oedipus Rex*.

Essay 1 Due

Unit 9: Iliad 1

3/8/22, 3/10/22

Reading: Homer *Iliad* books 1, 6; Morford and Lenardon 2013 – Troy

Advanced reading: Letoublon 2011 – *Homer's Use of Myth*

Unit 10: Iliad 2

3/22/22, 3/24/22

Reading: Homer *Iliad* books 9, 22, 24; Powell – *Iliad*.

Advanced reading: Hertel 2011 – *The Myth of History*

Unit 11: Odysseus' journey

3/29/22, 3/31/22

Reading: Homer *Odyssey* books 5, 9, 11, 24; Powell 2005 – *Odyssey*.

Advanced reading: The *Odyssey* 1-11; Murnaghan 1995 – *The Plan of Athena*

Unit 12: The Oresteia

4/5/22, 4/7/22

Reading: Morford and Lenardon 2003 – *Orestes*; Powell 2002 – *Orestes*.

Advanced reading: Aeschylus *Agamemnon*

Unit 14: Mythological Women

4/12/22, 4/14/22

Reading: Primary Selections Week 14

Advanced reading: Lewis 2011 – *Women in Myth*

Essay 2 Due

Unit 15: Theseus and Perseus

4/19/22, 4/21/22

Reading: Primary Selections Week 15

Advanced reading: Hall 2007 – *Politics of Greek Myth*

Unit 16: Roman Myth

4/26/22, 4/28/22

Reading: Vergil's *Aeneid* 2, 4.

Advanced reading: None

Academic Integrity:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/home-2/newbrunswick/academic-integrity-policy/> .

Accommodation and Support Statement

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students and the University as a whole. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

For Individuals with Disabilities: The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at ods.rutgers.edu. Contact ODS at (973)353-5375 or via email at ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Individuals who are Pregnant: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy. Students may contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973) 353-1906 or via email at TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Absence Verification: The Office of the Dean of Students can provide assistance for absences related to religious observance, emergency or unavoidable conflict (e.g., illness, personal or family emergency, etc.). Students should refer to [University Policy 10.2.7](#) for information about expectations and responsibilities. The Office of the Dean of Students can be contacted by calling (973) 353-5063 or emailing deanofstudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Individuals with temporary conditions/injuries: The Office of the Dean of Students can assist students who are experiencing a temporary condition or injury (e.g., broken or sprained limbs, concussions, or recovery from surgery). Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury should submit a request using the following link: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.

For English as a Second Language (ESL): The Program in American Language Studies (PALS) can support students experiencing difficulty in courses due to English as a Second Language (ESL) and can be reached by emailing PALS@newark.rutgers.edu to discuss potential supports.

For Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance can assist students who are experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking. Students can report an incident to the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance by calling (973) 353-1906 or emailing TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. Incidents may also be reported by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. For more information, students should refer to the University's Student Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence, Stalking and Related Misconduct located at <http://compliance.rutgers.edu/title-ix/about-title-ix/title-ix-policies/>.

For support related to interpersonal violence: The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance can provide any student with confidential support. The office is a **confidential resource** and does *not* have an obligation to report information to the University's Title IX Coordinator. Students can contact the office by calling (973) 353-1918 or emailing run.vpva@rutgers.edu. There is also a confidential text-based line available to students; students can text (973) 339-0734 for support.

For Crisis and Concerns: The Campus Awareness Response and Education (CARE) Team works with students in crisis to develop a support plan to address personal situations that might impact their academic performance. Students, faculty and staff may contact the CARE Team by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNCARE or emailing careteam@rutgers.edu.

For Stress, Worry, or Concerns about Well-being: The Counseling Center has confidential therapists available to support students. Students should reach out to the Counseling Center to schedule an appointment: counseling@newark.rutgers.edu or (973) 353-5805. If you are not quite ready to make an appointment with a therapist but are interested in self-help, check out *TAO at Rutgers-Newark* for an easy, web-based approach to self-care and support: <https://tinyurl.com/RUN-TAO>.

For emergencies, call 911 or contact Rutgers University Police Department (RUPD) by calling (973) 353-5111.